

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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ACDA-19 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15

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COME-00 AF-10 CIEP-02 DRC-01 /184 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9316

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AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4118

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SP, NATO

SUBJ: DPC BRIEFING FOR GOS BY DASD BERGOLD

BEGIN SUMMARY: AT SESSION HELD MFA JUNE 25, DASD BERGOLD BRIEFED SPANISH MFA AND MILITARY OFFICIALS ON JUNE DPC BRUSSELS MEETING. BERGOLD HIGHLIGHTED DPC AGENDA ITEMS AND REPLIED TO QUESTIONS POSED BY MFA AND SPANISH MILITARY OFFICIALS ATTENDING. SPANISH DISPLAYED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN U.S. AND NATO REACTIONS TO EVENTS IN PORTUGAL, INCLUDING PRESENCE OF COMMUNIST IN PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT AND FUTURE OF CAPE VERDE ISLANDS. OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST TO SPANISH INCLUDED SOVIET NAVAL BUILDUP, ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE BY SOVIET TRAWLERS AND OCEANOGRAPHIC SHIPS, BALANCE IN CONVENTIONAL FORCES BETWEEN EAST AND WEST AND CAPACITY OR WILLINGNESS OF SOME NATO MEMBERS TO MEET THEIR OBLIGATIONS, AND REACTIONS OF OTHER NATO MEMBERS TO SPANISH CONTRIBUTION TO WESTERN DEFENSE. ON
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LATTER POINT, BERGOLD PROVIDED COPY OF SECRETARY'S

REMARKS AND NOTED THAT HIS COMMENTS ON SPANISH ROLE WERE STRONGEST TO DATE, THOUGH REACTION OF EUROPEANS SUGGESTED NO SIGNIFICANT MODERATION OF ATTITUDE TOWARD SPAIN. END SUMMARY

1. DASD BERGOLD BRIEFED SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND MILITARY OFFICIALS ON JUNE DPC AT MEETING HELD JUNE 25 IN MFA AND CHAIRED BY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS NUNO AGUIRRE DE CARCER.

2. BRIEFING COVERED HIGH POINTS OF MAJOR DPC AGENDA ITEMS FOLLOWED BY QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD. SPANISH OFFICIALS WERE PROVIDED WITH COPY OF SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S REMARKS, WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION INVITED TO HIS COMMENTS REGARDING VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION OF SPAIN TO OVERALL WESTERN DEFENSE. BERGOLD NOTED THIS WAS STRONGEST U.S. STATEMENT TO DATE THIS REGARD. HIGHLIGHTS OF EXCHANGES BETWEEN BERGOLD AND SPANISH AS FOLLOWS:

3. SPANISH PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN SECRETARY'S BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS AND REACTION OF OTHER NATO MEMBERS REGARDING SPAIN'S ROLE. BERGOLD STATED SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN ALLIANCE REMAINED AN INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEM FOR SEVERAL COUNTRIES AND NOTED THAT HE COULD NOT REPORT ANY REAL CHANGE FROM PAST REACTIONS TO THIS ISSUE. CITED ARGUMENTS USED BY SECRETARY IN BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO DISCUSSIONS WITH NORWEGIANS.

4. IN REPLY TO QUESTION ON BRITISH DEFENSE REVIEW, BERGOLD NOTED U.S. HAD EXPRESSED STRONG CONCERN TO UK SEC OF STATE FOR DEFENSE ROY MASON. IN SIMILAR VEIN, SAID WE WOULD NOT ACCEPT CONCEPT OF "SPECILIZATION OF TASKS" AS PRETEXT FOR SOME MEMBERS (NETHERLANDS) TO DO LESS.

5. IN REPLY TO QUESTION CONCERNING ADEQUACY OF CONVENTIONAL FORCES, BERGOLD EMPHASIZED TO SPANISH THAT U.S. HAD STRESSED SIZE ALONE WAS ONE FACTOR IN CONVENTIONAL EQUATION, BUT THAT QUALITY OF CONVENTIONAL FORCES AS IMPORTANT A FACTOR IN REDRESSING IMBALANCE IN SIZE BETWEEN NATO AND WARSAW PACT CONVENTIONAL FORCES. NOTED IMPROVEMENTS IN
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TACTICAL AIR COMMAND AND CONTROL AS CASE IN POINT. SAID U.S. BELIEVED THAT EXCESSIVELY PESSIMISTIC COMPARISONS BETWEEN NATO AND WARSAW PACT CONVENTIONAL FORCES COULD ENGENDER DEFEATISM. IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR MORALE WITHIN ALLIANCE THAT LEGISLATORS AND MILITARY EXPERTS HAVE BETTER APPRECIATION OF IMPROVED QUALITY AS FACTOR AFFECTING BALANCE OF CONVENTIONAL FORCES, E.G. IN CENTRAL REGION.

6. RESPONDING TO SPANISH QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBLE UNDERSEA SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES OF SOVIET TRAWLERS AND OCEANOGRAPHIC VESSELS IN ATLANTIC, BERGOLD CITED LEGITIMATE SOVIET INTERESTS IN FISHING INDUSTRY, NOTING, HOWEVER, THAT IN VIEW OF CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES SOVIETS HAVE IN MAINTAINING AERIAL SURVEILLANCE OF SEA LANES, MUST BE ASSUMED TRAWLERS AND OCEANOGRAPHIC SHIPS MAY BECOME INVOLVED IN UNDERSEA ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE.

7. ASKED WHETHER U.S. AND NATO CONCERNED OVER PRESENCE OF COMMUNIST IN CURRENT PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT AND THREAT THIS MIGHT CONSTITUTE FOR NATO'S SOUTHERN FLANK, BERGOLD REFERRED TO ICELAND EXPERIENCE AS EXAMPLE WHERE U.S. AND NATO HAVE HAD TO DEAL WITH NATO GOVERNMENT HAVING COMMUNIST MINISTERS. NOTED FORTHCOMING PORTUGUESE ELECTIONS IN 1975 MIGHT OFFER PROSPECTS FOR CHANGE.

8. SPANISH NAVAL OFFICERS MANIFESTED INTEREST IN HOW U.S. VIEWED INCREASE IN SOVIET NAVAL STRENGTH OVER RECENT YEARS AS WELL AS CURRENT SOVIET PROGRAM FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CARRIERS. BERGOLD STATED NATO TAKING VERY SERIOUSLY NEW CONFIGURATION AS WELL AS SIZE OF SOVIET FLEET, ALTHOUGH DRAMATIC INCREASE IN SOVIET FLEET PARTLY EXPLAINED BY ITS SMALL SIZE AT BEGINNING OF CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM. U.S. NEVERTHELESS CONCERNED AND HAS EMBARKED ON AMBITIOUS CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM OF ITS OWN TO REPLACE MANY OLDER SHIPS IN CURRENT INVENTORY. THUS WHILE NET INCREASE MAY NOT MATCH SOVIETS' QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS SHOULD ENHANCE OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS IN PERIOD OF 1980'S.

9. RESPONDING TO SPANISH QUERY REGARDING EVENTUAL INDEPENDENCE OF GUINEA-BISSAU, UNCERTAIN FUTURE OF CAPE CONFIDENTIAL

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VERDE ISLANDS, AND WHAT THIS MIGHT PORTEND FOR SECURITY OF SOUTH ATLANTIC AREA IN GENERAL, BERGOLD NOTED OCTOBER MIDDLE EAST WAR APPEARED TO HAVE ENGENDERED NEW APPRECIATION AMONG NATO MEMBERS--REFLECTED IN BOTH OTTAWA AND BRUSSELS MEETINGS--WITH RESPECT TO EVENTS OCCURRING OUTSIDE GEOGRAPHIC LIMITS OF ALLIANCE. CITED CONCERN FOR LOC'S AROUND AFRICA AND NATO PLANNERS' AWARENESS OF POTENTIAL STRATEGIC VALUE OF CAPE VERDE, NOTING THAT NATO CONTINGENCY PLANNING WILL IN FUTURE INCLUDE AREA SOUTH OF TROPIC OF CANCER.

10. BERGOLD'S EXCELLENT BRIEFING FOLLOWED BY LUNCH HOSTED BY MFA. ATMOSPHERE RELAXED AND CORDIAL THROUGHOUT, AND SPANISH EXPRESSED GREAT APPRECIATION FOR VISIT.
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